UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/49/939
S/1995/545
6 July 1995
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-ninth session
Agenda item 74
PROTECTION AND SECURITY OF
SMALL STATES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fiftieth year

Letter dated 3 July 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a copy of a press release dated 30 June 1995 issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador announcing the simultaneous repatriation of four Ecuadorian and 11 Peruvian citizens who had been detained in Peru and Ecuador, respectively, as a result of this year's armed conflict between Ecuador and Peru.

I should be grateful if you would have this note and its annex distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 74, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Guillermo G. CAMACHO
Counsellor
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex

Press release dated 30 June 1995 issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has announced that, as a result of the talks held last week at Brasilia between the Deputy Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Ecuador and Peru, the Ecuadorian and Peruvian citizens detained in Peru and Ecuador, respectively, as a result of the armed conflict will be repatriated simultaneously within the next few hours.

The repatriation decision was motivated by the Government's desire to enable the four Ecuadorians held in Peru to return home as soon as possible and resume their normal lives. Furthermore, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with the support and collaboration of the relevant military and police authorities believed that the repatriation process would make a genuine and effective contribution to the improvement of relations between Ecuador and Peru.

The Ecuadorian citizens who will be returning to the country this evening are: Wilfrido Maquilón Bustamante, Eddy Roberto Mora Barba, José Felington Yayguaje Caimito and Victor Augusto Tengoy Machoa; these last two Ecuadorians had been sentenced to 18 years' imprisonment for espionage by the Supreme Council for Military Justice of Peru.

The Peruvian citizens who are to be repatriated are the following: soldiers: Daniel Cisniegas Campos and Gerardo Francisco Paiva Quishpe; accused of spying: Percy Chavarría Leiva, José Meza Salinas, Edgar Seminario Cobeñas, José Timena Sandoval and José Rojano Gonzalez; accused of ordinary crimes: Jorge Enrique Minope Carvajal, Marco Antonio Minope Carvajal, José Rodrigo Avila Barba and Juan Revollar Estrada.

Ecuador, which has consistently demonstrated its respect for and strict observance of humanitarian law, has thus complied with the provisions of article 118 of the third Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) worked closely with the Ecuadorian authorities to bring to a satisfactory conclusion the efforts begun several months ago by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to secure the simultaneous repatriation of prisoners. The ICRC representative, Mr. Jean-Pierre Givel, and a doctor from that organization, Dr. Daniel Kock, visited the prisoners this morning. Dr. Kock certified that the Peruvian citizens are in good physical and mental health and will accompany them back to Lima.